Soft Pictures - Re-making the Hattersley

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Based on a site-specific investigation of the old Weaving Shed at Sunnybank Mills, Farsley, West Yorkshire

The aim of this submission is to explore the social and philosophical considerations of thinking through practice. Specifically, the relationship between my textile practice and the subject matter which pre-occupies it - the transient nature of the derelict (both building and machine). This is investigated through the prism of making, un-making and re-making, as a means of opening up a dialogue between textile and place. Derelict buildings are deconstructed spaces, in a state of entropic transformation and open to many interpretations. The investigation of this perception of change (or decline) through textile practice aims to unpick ideas of entropy and alterity and how this is interpreted.

The title phrase of the exhibition installation; “soft picture” is a documentary response to the derelict site, its space and the Hattersley loom within it. It relies on initial photographic imagery, recording visually framed information, which is then digitally re-painted, printed onto cloth, and embroidered. The resultant piece contains an image which is both tactile and visual at the same time. It can be pliable, draped, folded, or stretched and constrained across a timber stretcher. It visually reflects is rigid structural subject matter but it is not. It is merely one visual response through one mind’s eye and is a new object made.

In considering its definition in physics, entropy is essentially a process of energy transfer through the second law of thermo-dynamics. If decay is seen within this context, there is an active disintegration and degeneration in the derelict space which is at once both disturbing and invigorating. It might be a degeneration from its first form but what continuous new forms might be made through this constantly shifting process? This has been further explored through additional engagement with the loom itself and its parts found in the space. Wrapping the loom re-introduced the machine to its product and re-coating machine parts created brightly coloured forms ready for re-imagining.

Embracing this, the space (and objects within), becomes a play area. There is scope for re-imagination of the transitional and the entropy can be seen as something transforming rather than degenerating. In embracing the space at Sunnybank Mills, I have used it as an opportunity for experimental re-interpretation, re-contextualisation and re-imagination. The contents of the accompanying booklet documents this journey.

(1) “Soft Pictures” is the title of a 2014 exhibition at the Museum Re Rebaudengo in Turin.
Exhibition

Learning from History, Tradition and Industry

Looking Back to Look Forward: Reanimating Textiles for Novel Design and Manufacturing
Prof. BROOKS HAGAN, Rhode Island School of Design

Textile Heritage Retold; Drawing Inspiration from the Hawick Textile Archives
EMILY QUINN, Heriot-Watt University

What is Urban Fabric?
ANNE MARR, PHILIPPA BROCK, JO PIERCE & LINDA FLORENCE,
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London

Learning from history, tradition and industry
CHRISTIE ALEXANDER, The Glasgow School of Art

Collaborating and Cross-disciplinary Working

Hand crafted textile products accompanied by a short 10m documentary film ‘Stitching Stories’
SHIRLEY MCLAUCHLAN, Edinburgh University
MADDIE CLARK, University of the West of Scotland

Corporate to Cool
ANGELA ARMSTRONG & ANN MUIRHEAD,
Coventry University

‘Nonahedra’ Virtual Fashion Film
Manchester Metropolitan University

Soft Pictures - Re-making the Hattersley
CLARE LANE, Leeds Art University

Conversation with Selves
JOANNA NEIL,
University of Glasgow / Blackburn College

Textile Hybrids
ANNE MARR & REBECCA HOYES,
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London

Exploring jacquard weaving as an applied digital practice for textile design research and development
Dr. KERRI AKIWOWO & LUCY DENNIS,
Loughborough University

Silver as Dye
Dr. SARA KEITH, Heriot - Watt University

Valuing Cut
LILIA YIP, University of Brighton

Integrating and Connecting Digital Technologies

Design and pattern engineering of functional men’s business dress shirt
KWAN KI VANNESA CHU, Dr. CHU-PO HO,
Dr. JOE AU & Dr. JIN LAM,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Investigating and Explicating Creative Processes

Build Back Better